

State-of-the-Science Research on Swimming-Associated Health Effects and the Translation of Health Data to Water Quality Guidelines for Bathing Beaches

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The purpose of this session is to present state-of-the science information to the public and the Agency on the relationship between swimming-associated illness and water quality measured with rapid analytical methods. The Beaches Act of 2000 tasked the EPA with developing new rapid methods, better ways of monitoring water quality, determining the relationship between swimmer health and water quality, and providing the public with scientifically defensible guidelines for beach water safety. The data and information presented in this session are only a portion of the research that is being conducted now and in future years, but it will give the public an idea of the direction of beaches research. The presentations will be by three partners, the EPA Office of Research and Development, the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, and the EPA Office of Water. The topics and their presenters are as follows:

- The relationship between novel indicators of recreational water quality and health. Results from the first summer of full scale studies of The National Epidemiological and Environmental Assessment of Recreational Waters. Timothy J. Wade, Ph.D MPH, USEPA, National Health and Ecological Effects Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, NC
- Epidemiology study of swimmers in nonpoint source polluted marine recreational waters from San Diego, CA. Kenneth Schiff, Deputy Director, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, Westminster, CA, and Jack Colford, Associate Professor, Epidemiology, University of California, Berkeley, CA
- Partnerships: Linking EPA beach research with state and local BEACH programs. Rick Hoffmann, National BEACH Program Coordinator, EPA; Office of Science and Technology, Office of Water, Washington, DC

Dr. Timothy Wade is an epidemiologist who has participated in studies conducted to determine the extent of illness associated with drinking water and how it related to water consumers drinking reverse osmosis-filtered drinking water. This work was done while Dr. Wade was at the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Kenneth Schiff is an environmental scientist who has been associated with many studies concerned with water quality indicators of fecal contamination. His collaborator, Dr. Jack Colford, is an outstanding epidemiologist at the University of California who has been involved in many epidemiology studies associated with water environments. Mr. Rick Hoffman has been with the EPA's Office of Water for many years and is an expert in the area of Water Quality Standards, especially those related to surface waters.